

# SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY



Phil Isenberg, Chair  
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force  
650 Capitol Mall  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Delta Vision – North Bay Aqueduct Alternate Intake Project

Dear Mr. Isenberg,

The Solano County Water Agency receives a vital water supply from the North Bay Aqueduct of the State Water Project. The North Bay Aqueduct pumps from Barker Slough located north and east of Rio Vista. In addition to serving Solano cities, the North Bay Aqueduct serves cities in Napa County, a combined population of over 400,000. Our Agency is very interested in planning for water conveyance, levee management and habitat restoration in the Delta.

As a Delta county, we treasure the resources of the Delta and are concerned about the decline of Delta fish resources and deteriorating levees. At the same time, we have concerns that the North Bay Aqueduct has the poorest water quality in the State Water Project, creating challenges to treat the water for safe human consumption.

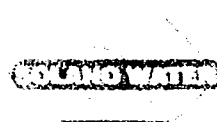
We look to any comprehensive solution to the Delta problems to also address the concerns of the Solano County Water Agency.

There are three main areas that must be addressed: drinking water quality for the North Bay Aqueduct, endangered fish species issues at north Delta pumping plants and a comprehensive, sustainable levee program.

The first two problems are related. The Cache Slough area (see attached map) has been designated as a prime location for habitat restoration to benefit fish such as Delta smelt. The plan is to provide shallow water habitat conducive to Delta smelt. This will create a Delta smelt population very near to the intake of the North Bay Aqueduct and local agricultural pumps. Shallow waters and wetlands will have an adverse water quality effect to the already poor water quality pumped at the North Bay Aqueduct.

A long term solution for the North Bay Aqueduct is the construction of a second alternate intake, a project the Agency has had under study for several years. Because of the benefits to endangered species and to mitigate impacts to drinking water quality, it is appropriate for a State contribution to funding the alternate intake project. Attached is a paper that describes that project.

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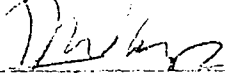


Agricultural pumpers in the Cache Slough area must be given an accommodation from State and Federal Endangered Species Acts if endangered species habitats are put in the Cache Slough area. Until the alternate intake is in operation, the North Bay Aqueduct must be given the same exemption.

Our concerns in the North Delta will be one of many concerns that must be addressed in a balanced, fair and sustainable solution to Delta problems. Conveyance, levees and habitat restoration must be done in a way that mitigates adverse impacts — and ideally, in most cases, improves existing conditions.

We look forward to working with the Administration, the Legislature and other stakeholders to ensure our interest are addressed in any Delta solution proposed.

Sincerely,



John Vasquez, Chairman  
Solano County Water Agency Board of Directors

CC: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Senator Don Perata  
Senator Mike Machado  
Senator Joe Simitian  
Senator Darrel Steinberg  
Senator Dave Cogdill  
Senator Tom Torlakson  
Senator Patricia Wiggins  
Assemblymember Fabian Nunez  
Assemblymember Lois Wolk  
Assemblymember Bill Maze  
Assemblymember Noreen Evans  
Assemblymember Jarred Huffman  
Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Secretary Linda Adams  
Director Lester Snow  
Mr. John Moffatt, Governor's Office

# SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY



North Bay Aqueduct Alternate Intake Project  
(August, 2007)

The North Bay Aqueduct is part of the State Water Project that serves Solano and Napa Counties. The North Bay Aqueduct provides an important municipal and industrial water supply to over 400,000 people.

The Alternate Intake project is the construction of a new pumping station on or near the Sacramento River at Courtland and pipeline to connect to the existing North Bay Aqueduct. A feasibility study, funded by a CALFED grant has been completed. Capital costs were estimated at about \$150 million (2003 dollars).

There are two reasons for an alternate intake for the North Bay Aqueduct: drinking water quality and endangered species protection.

The North Bay Aqueduct has the poorest water quality in the State Water Project. North Bay Aqueduct water is high in organic carbon and turbidity. Organic carbon reacts with disinfection chemicals to form byproducts that can lead to cancer. High turbidity causes water treatment plant challenges, including higher usage of chemicals to reduce turbidity. Changing drinking water quality regulations make it increasingly difficult to treat North Bay Aqueduct water.

The North Bay Aqueduct pumps water from Barker Slough. The Barker/Cache Slough area has been identified in the Public Policy Institute of California report "Envisioning Futures for the Delta", and other reports, as a key area for freshwater tidal restoration. This type of restoration project creates better habitat for fishes like Delta smelt. If restoration is conducted in this area, increased fish populations will be susceptible to entrainment at the North Bay Aqueduct pumps. Also, marshes can create organic carbon and other pollutants, such as methyl mercury, that could worsen water quality at the North Bay Aqueduct.

Improving/protecting water quality and protection of endangered species are public benefits that justify state funding of some of the costs of an Alternate Intake Project. North Bay Aqueduct water users are willing to cost share with the State on this project.

The California Department of Water Resources will be starting the permitting for the Alternate Intake Project.

5121A - North Bay Aqueduct Alternate Intake Project

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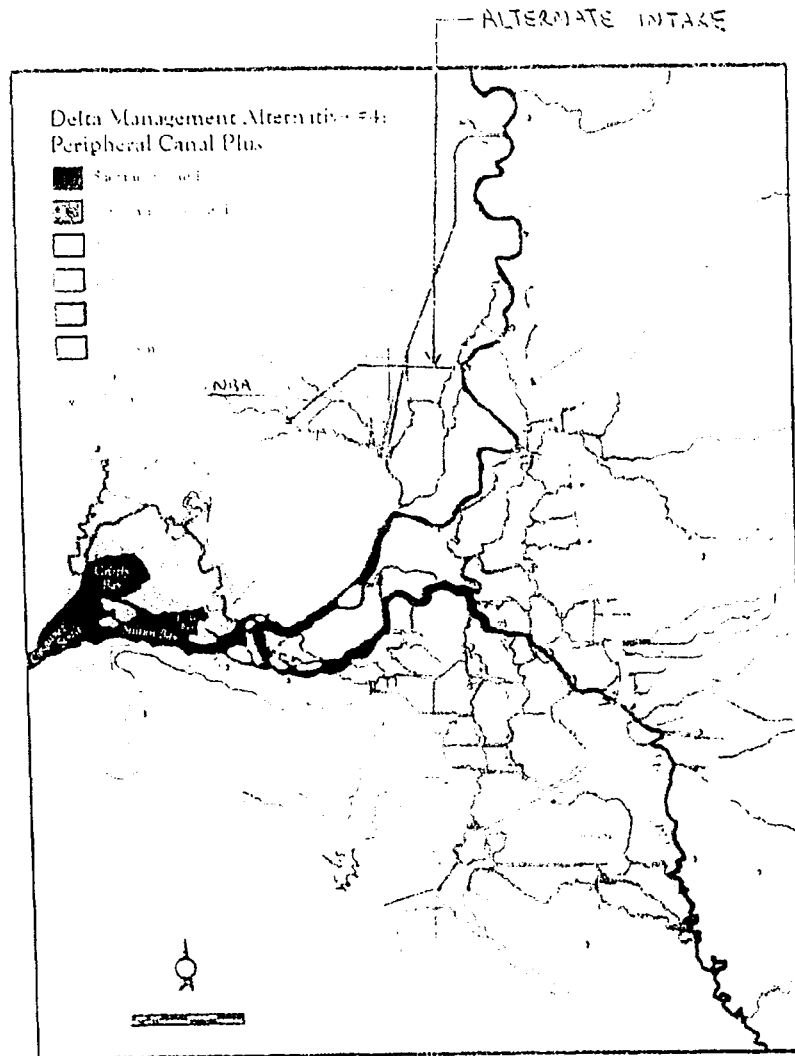


Figure 7-1 Delta Management Alternative #4: Peripheral Canal Plus

Source: Delta Management Study, 1992, Delta Management Study, 1992